

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AF-06 SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ARA-06

OPIC-03 /080 W

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O R 221826Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5759

INFO AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LISBON 0487

DEPT PLEASE PASS SECRETARY'S PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PO

SUBJECT: CUBAN TRANSIT OF AZORES

REF: LISBON 446

1. ACTING FOREIGN MINISTER MEDEIROS FERREIRA SUMMONED ME
JANUARY 22 AT 5:00 PM. HE WAS CLEARLY AGITATED.

2. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID HE WANTED CONVEY PROFOUND
EMBARRASSMENT CAUSED TO GOP BY DECLARATION OF STATE
DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN ON CUBAN FLIGHTS TO ANGOLA VIA AZORES.
AS I KNEW, PORTUGAL WAS A PROUD COUNTRY UNDERGOING A DIFFICULT
PERIOD OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY. STATEMENTS IMPLYING THAT
DECISIONS WERE MADE UNDER PRESSURE FROM U.S. COULD LEAD TO UNREST.
THE GOP MADE DECISION TO CEASE FLIGHTS ON BASIS OF NATIONAL
INTEREST, NOT US PRESSURE, ALTHOUGH IT WAS INDEBTED TO US
FOR CALLING MATTER TO THEIR ATTENTION. GOP WISHED TO LET US
KNOW OF ITS STRONG DISPLEASURE WITH USG STATEMENT.

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3. I GAVE MEDEIROS FERREIRA TEXT OF STATEMENT AS CARRIED

ON WIRELESS FILE. POINTED OUT THAT STATEMENT WAS MADE IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AND WENT NO FURTHER THAN SAYING STRONG REPRESENTATIONS HAD BEEN MADE. WE COULD HARDLY DENY THIS. INTERPRETATIONS THAT THE GOP DECISION WAS IN RESPONSE TO OUR DEMARCHES WERE PURE PRESS SPECULATION. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID HE HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE EXACT WORDS OF OUR STATEMENT, AGREED WE HAD TO ADMIT DEMARCHES HAD BEEN MADE (GOP ADMITTED THIS) BUT HOPED WE COULD PHRASE OUR STATEMENTS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT PORTUGUESE SENSITIVITIES. WE WERE BOTH INTERESTED IN RESULTS AND THESE HAD BEEN ACHIEVED.

4. I AGREED BUT NOTED THAT THE RESULTS HAD BEEN SLOW IN COMING. MEDEIROS FERREIRA REACTED DEFENSIVELY TO THIS SAYING GOP HAD TO STUDY LEGALITIES AND VERIFY THAT FLIGHTS WERE INDEED DESTINED FOR ANGOLA. FACT WAS THAT FLIGHTS WERE STOPPED. US STATEMENT HURT THOSE WHO HAD MADE STOPPAGE POSSIBLE.

5. I LEFT WRITTEN COPY OF STATEMENT WITH MEDEIROS FERREIRA AND AGAIN POINTED OUT ITS LIMITED SCOPE. I SAID THAT I WOULD REPORT HIS DEMARCHE AND URGE THAT DEPARTMENT CONSIDER EXTREME PORTUGUESE SENSITIVITIES AND EXERCISE EXTRA CAUTION IN ITS PUBLIC STATEMENTS. MEDEIROS FERREIRA SAID HE WOULD APPRECIATE THIS.
CARLUCCI

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

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